

Application No. 10/711,072
Docket No. A4-1731
Amendment dated December 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 7, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A traction device comprising:
a body formed of a flexible and compressible material having a forefoot portion and a lower leg portion, oppositely-disposed anterior and posterior regions, oppositely-disposed lateral regions, a continuous cavity within the forefoot and lower leg portions, an interior surface within the cavity, and an anterior opening located in the anterior region and sized to permit a patient's foot and lower leg to pass therethrough into the cavity, the cavity within the lower leg and forefoot portions being sized and shaped to support respectively a patient's lower leg above a bed on which the patient reclines and the patient's foot extending in an upright position and so that the patient's heel is suspended within the cavity and heel and malleolar pressure are reduced;
means for adjustably closing the anterior opening; ~~and~~
traction straps ~~removably attached to the lateral regions of the body~~
~~and~~ extending from the forefoot portion of the body; and

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means for removably attaching the traction straps to the lateral regions of the body and for enabling the traction straps to be detached from the body while the patient's lower leg and foot remain supported by and within the body;

wherein the interior surface of the body provides a sufficiently high friction interface with the patient's lower leg to prevent sliding of the body on the patient's lower leg when the anterior opening is closed by the closing means and a traction tension of 45 N is applied through the traction straps.

Claim 2 (Original): The traction device according to claim 1, wherein the traction straps define a loop.

Claim 3 (Original): The traction device according to claim 2, further comprising a traction bar secured to the loop of the traction straps.

Claim 4 (Original): The traction device according to claim 3, further comprising a traction rope secured to the traction bar.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The traction device according to claim 1, wherein the adjustable ~~adjustable~~ closing means comprises straps

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releasably attached to the lateral regions of the body.

Claim 6 (Original): The traction device according to claim 1, wherein one of the lateral regions of the body is larger than the other of the lateral regions and is sufficiently sized to cover at least an anterior portion of the patient's lower leg.

Claim 7 (Original): The traction device according to claim 1, further comprising means for reducing friction on the posterior region of the body to promote sliding movement of the body on the bed on which the patient reclines.

Claim 8 (Original): The traction device according to claim 1, further comprising means for stiffening the posterior region of the body to inhibit buckling of the body between the forefoot and lower leg portions thereof.

Claim 9 (Original): The traction device according to claim 1, further comprising a separate support cushion within the cavity of the body, the support cushion being located within the lower leg portion of the body for supporting the patient's lower leg within the cavity and suspending the patient's heel within the cavity.

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Claim 10 (Original): The traction device according to claim 9,
wherein the support cushion is formed of a flexible and compressible material.

Claim 11 (Original): The traction device according to claim 9, further
comprising means for securing the support cushion to the interior surface within
the lower leg portion of the body.

Claim 12 (Original): The traction device according to claim 1, further
comprising a separate support pad and means for releasably securing the
support pad to one of the lateral regions of the body to inhibit rolling of the
patient's lower leg.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A traction device comprising:
a unitary body formed of a flexible, compressible foam material
having integral forefoot and lower leg portions, oppositely-disposed anterior and
posterior regions, oppositely-disposed lateral regions, a continuous cavity within
the forefoot and lower leg portions, an interior surface within the cavity, and an
anterior opening located in the anterior region and sized to permit a patient's
foot and lower leg to pass therethrough into the cavity, the cavity within the
lower leg and forefoot portions being sized and shaped to support respectively

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a patient's lower leg above a bed on which the patient reclines and the patient's foot extending in an upright position;

means for adjustably closing the anterior opening;

traction straps ~~removably attached to the lateral regions of the body~~ and extending from the forefoot portion of the body;

complementary fastening means for removably attaching the traction straps to the lateral regions of the body and for enabling the traction straps to be detached from the body while the patient's lower leg and foot remain supported by and within the body;

means for reducing friction on the posterior region of the body to promote sliding movement of the boot on the bed on which the patient reclines;

means for stiffening the posterior region of the body to inhibit buckling of the boot between the forefoot and lower leg portions thereof; and

a support cushion within the cavity of the body, the support cushion being located within the lower leg portion of the body for supporting the patient's lower leg within the cavity and suspending the patient's heel within the cavity so that heel and malleolar pressure are substantially absent;

wherein the interior surface of the body provides a sufficiently high friction interface with the patient's lower leg to prevent sliding of the body on the patient's lower leg when the anterior opening is closed by the closing means

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and a traction tension of 45 N is applied through the traction straps.

Claim 14 (Original): The traction device according to claim 13,
wherein the traction straps define a loop.

Claim 15 (Original): The traction device according to claim 14,
further comprising a traction bar secured to the loop of the traction straps.

Claim 16 (Original): The traction device according to claim 15,
further comprising a traction rope secured to the traction bar.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The traction device according to
claim 13, wherein the adjustable ~~adjustably~~ closing means comprises straps
releasably attached to the lateral regions of the body.

Claim 18 (Original): The traction device according to claim 13,
wherein one of the lateral regions of the body is larger than the other of the
lateral regions and is sufficiently sized to cover at least an anterior portion of the
patient's lower leg.

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Claim 19 (Original): The traction device according to claim 13,
wherein the support cushion is formed of a flexible, compressible foam
material.

Claim 20 (Original): The traction device according to claim 13,
further comprising a support pad and means for releasably securing the
support pad to one of the lateral regions of the body to inhibit rolling of the
patient's lower leg.